(viii) To engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(ix) To obtain cooperation of pharmaceutical industry by regular interaction with them.

(x) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) Programme.

In addition the following steps have been taken

1. Association of Pharmaceutical Industry and All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists have been asked to take necessary initiative to collectively combat the menace of spurious drugs.
2. The problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and to ensure its checking has been specifically explained to State Health Ministers during the meeting of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.
3. The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of DGHS on July 18, 2001 associating members from industry, trade, drug regulatory officials and public representative to go into all aspects of the menace of spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures.

Decline in purchase of medicines by MSO

2239. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the value of medicines purchased by the Medical Store Organisation, which is responsible for the purchase of medicines for Government organisations at the Centre and States as well as the para-military forces, has been steadily coming down during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 11 out of 16 officials of MSO are facing vigilance inquiries on account of purchase of drugs from unregistered firms, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of purchases made by MSO during last five years are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

1996-97	129.58
1997-98	110.00
1998-99	46.40
1999-2000	38.16
2000-2001	28.85

The decrease in purchase of medicine has been due to non-finalization of new comprehensive formulary for CGHS and Medical Stores Organisation which has since been finalised.

(c) and (d) Only two officials of Medical Stores Organisation (one since retired) are facing enquiries for placing orders on unregistered firms.